

HOUSE RESOLUTION 264

By Jones U (Shel)

A RESOLUTION to commend Mr. Chester Anderson for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the Memphis Fire Department.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chester Anderson is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson is a highly respected member of the Memphis community; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Mr. Anderson joined the Memphis Fire Department as a Private and has served the people of Memphis with acumen and alacrity for three decades; and

WHEREAS, Chester Anderson has diligently served the City of Memphis, earning several promotions including Fire Suppression Driver, Fire Suppression Lieutenant, Fire Suppression Captain and Acting Air Crash Chief, Fire Suppression Division Chief, Chief of Administration, and Chief of Emergency Operations; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2000, Dr. W. W. Herenton appointed Mr. Anderson as the Director of Fire Services; and

WHEREAS, Director Anderson is a well-trained firefighter and performs his duties in a manner beyond reproach; he has earned an Associate Applied Science Degree in Fire Fighting Technology from Shelby State Community College and has completed the Executive Leadership Program sponsored by the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy; and

WHEREAS, in order to better serve the Memphis community through his administrative position, Mr. Anderson has returned to school and is currently pursuing an Undergraduate Degree in Occupational Leadership and Management; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his duties as Director of Fire Services, Chester Anderson is active in numerous organizations that provide emergency services at the local, state, and federal levels; he is an active member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Fire Protection Agency, the National Fire Academy, and the U.S. Fire Administration; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson's vast knowledge of firefighting has enabled him to greatly contribute to several emergency service guides published by Fire Protection Publications; and

WHEREAS, Chester Anderson is also a committed member of several professional organizations including the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters and the Mid-South Fire Chiefs Association; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as a firefighter, Chester Anderson has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, he is an invaluable member of the community, participating in several civic organizations including the Empowerment Zone; the Board of Directors of the Fire Museum of Memphis and the NAACP as a lifetime member; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his unswerving reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Chester Anderson is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Director Anderson is an active member of the Breath of Life Christian Center Church in Raleigh; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Anderson is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife and their two children; and

WHEREAS, Chester Anderson is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby commend Mr. Chester Anderson for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as a member of the Memphis Fire Department and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.